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INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT Titanogorsk Ore Washing Plant

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1. a. The ore washing plant in Titan'sorsk (59°42'E/55°20'N), Chelyabinsk Oblast, is southeast of the railroad station, just north of a railroad line leading from the Ay railroad station to the northeast. In 1940 the name of the town was changed from Marnitka to Titan'sorsk.

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region of Titanogorsk before 1900 when the government blocked this area and started to mine gold, platinum, and other special ores. Exiles who were settled there to work in the mines formed the bulk of the population of Magnitka. The population had increased to 7,000 by 1945 and was doubled again by early 1949 because Soviet soldiers came here after being released from German war captivity and Russian nationals, who had worked in Germany during the war, were settled here with their families. German PW architects and engineers, including construction engineer Lieutenant Mold (fnu) and architect Siegfried Winhaus, supervised the expansion of the town and the construction of the ore washing plant and of a road. At the time work was begun on connecting the Kussa River with a lake which was to be dammed up as a reservoir.

- c. The Titan²orsk ore washing plant originally consisted of one old building, but this building was dismantled and replaced by three new structures. The plant resumed full operation in early 1949. Excavations for the construction of other buildings were made in March 1949. It was said that the ore would

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be further processed here, but no smelting plant was under construction nor was any machinery observed indicating such processes. The plant area was not fenced in, and no plate with a factory designation was seen. The South Mine, the Central Mine and the North Mine were east and northeast of the ore washing plant. (1)

- d. Three different kinds of ore were produced, medium-sized pieces, pieces the size of a nut and fine ground ore resembling pepper. The chief engineer said that Moscow scheduled a daily output of ore to fill 25 railroad cars, each loaded with 60 tons of ore. Such a train left the town every morning about 7 a.m. and returned in the evening, some times loaded with coal, etc. The ore was shipped in special sealed cars. Sometimes the ore in a car took up no more space than half a ton coal. [redacted] the ore contained 77

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percent pure iron and that it was designated Titanium by specialists. Soviets were observed lighting their cigarettes with a piece of ore which, when connected to an electric wire, immediately became red hot. [redacted] while the heaviest forging hammer could not crush the air-cooled ore, water-cooled ore broke at once under the hammer.

- e. [redacted] no information on the number of Soviet workers employed by the plant. Two hundred and seventy PWs worked as bricklayers.

2. a. The name of the town was to be changed from Magnitka to Titanogorsk. The ore mines here have existed since 1932 or 1934, but the only installation in the ore washing plant dating back to prewar times is an old crushing installation which is no longer in operation. Except for some war-time structures, all new installations were constructed by PWs after the war. Excavations for new buildings had started.

- b. Only ore with more than 30 percent iron content was selected by magnetos to be processed. The average daily output was about two trainloads of ore totaling about 1,200 tons. High quality ore was separated and specially processed, pulverized and designated titanium for shipping.

3. The ore, which was mined in three underground, interconnected pits, contained from 75 to 80 percent iron and also some titanium [redacted]

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[redacted] Magnetos sorted the ore in the bunkers. Some ore was shipped away, and some was dressed in the plant. Twenty-four 60-ton railroad cars were loaded with ore each day. Foundations in the northern plant area indicated that the plant was to be enlarged to twice its original size. The same extensions were planned in the south but no preparations for the constructions were observed. The town of Magnitka was to be renamed Titanogorsk.

4. a. The ore mines date back to pre-war times. Exploitation of the mines had been carried out at high tempo since 1945. A new pit east of the central mine had been excavated since 1947 and had reached a depth of 50 meters by July 1949. At that time the brick lining of the shaft and the elevator tower were completed, and only the machine shop was still under construction. The ore washing plant had only the middle section of the main building and a boiler and machine house on the other side of the railroad line prior to 1946. At that time annexes were constructed on either side of the main building, and the construction of a smelting plant was begun. [redacted]

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[redacted] it was planned to have the ore processed here. (2) All buildings were plastered brick structures. The construction of an underground canal to a reservoir in the southwest started in 1949. The purpose of this project was not determined. (3)

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b. About 180 laborers worked in three shifts in the north mine, about 360 laborers worked in the central mine, and 200 P.s were employed on the construction of the ore washing plant. In addition, nearly the entire population of the town worked in the mines or in the washing plant in some capacity.

25X1 [redacted] Comments.

- 25X1 (1) For location of the Titanyorsk ore-washing plant see sketch in Annex 1 of paragraph 1. [redacted] sketch of the plant layout see Annex 2. A sketch [redacted] but not disseminated, agreed with the sketch in Annex 1.
- 25X1 (2) In contradiction to the statements of [redacted] it is believed that the installations under construction are to be an ore processing plant as reported in paragraph 4.
- 25X1 (3) For the [redacted] sketch of the plant layout see Annex 3.
- 25X1 (4) This is the first information on this ore washing plant. The data provided [redacted] agrees for the most part and seems to be correct.
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